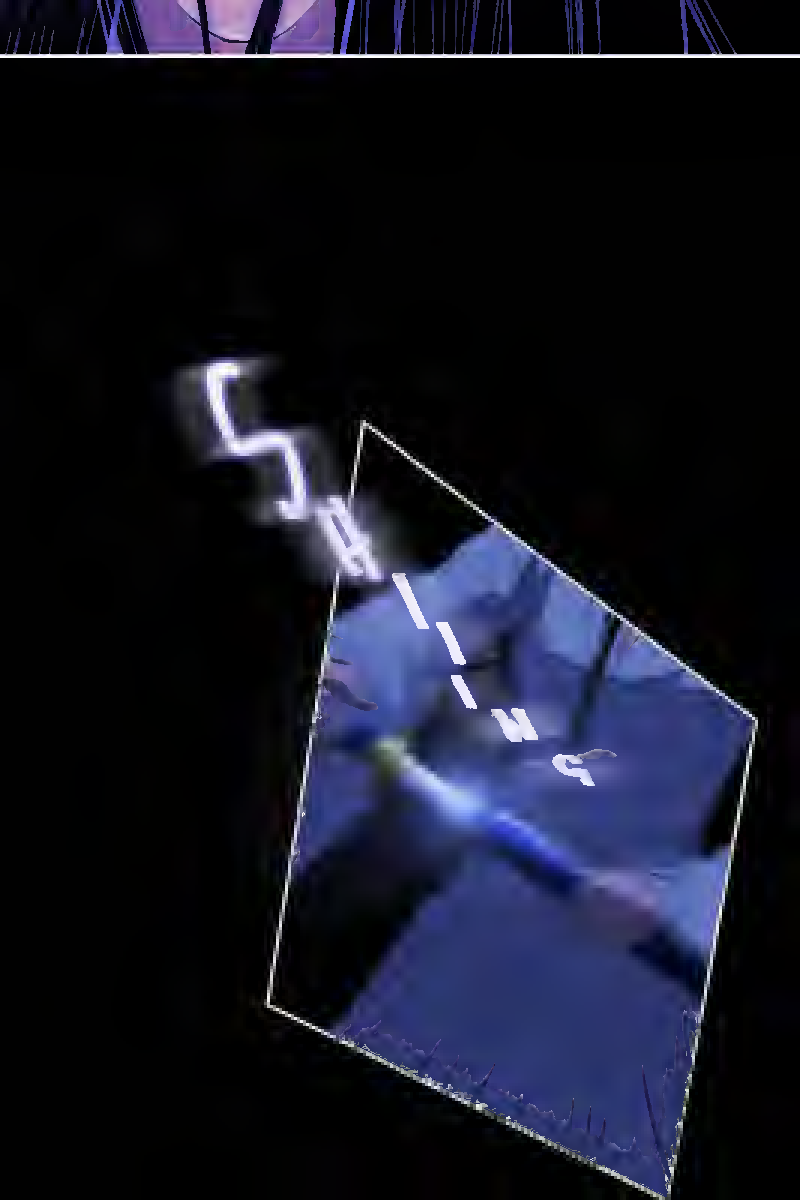
HE'S... SO....

NO.
FOCUS, MEI.
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?


SHING

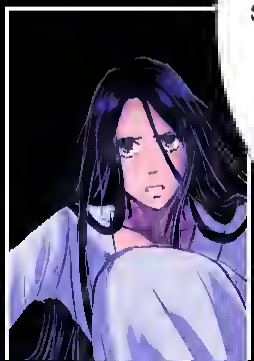
FWOOOOOSH

MY
KODACHI!?!

WHERE DID
HE GO?!

HE'S BEHIND ME?!

YOU FOLLOWED ME...
WHY?



I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED SUSPICIOUS ... WANDERING AROUND LATE AT NIGHT.

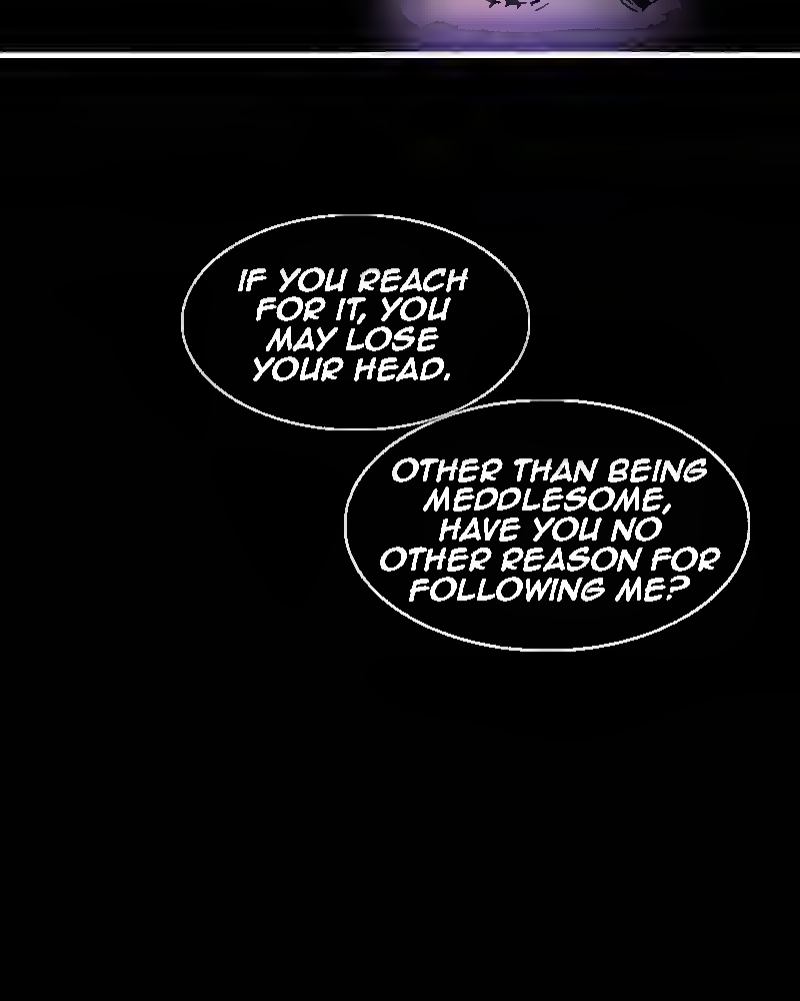
ARE YOU NOT ALSO SUSPICIOUS, THEN?

...WANDERING AROUND... LATE AT NIGHT.

...WHO ARE YOU?

I ASK THE QUESTIONS.

I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.


IF YOU REACH FOR IT, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HEAD.
OTHER THAN BEING MEDDLESOME, HAVE YOU NO OTHER REASON FOR FOLLOWING ME?

I SWEAR I HAD NO OTHER MOTIVE.

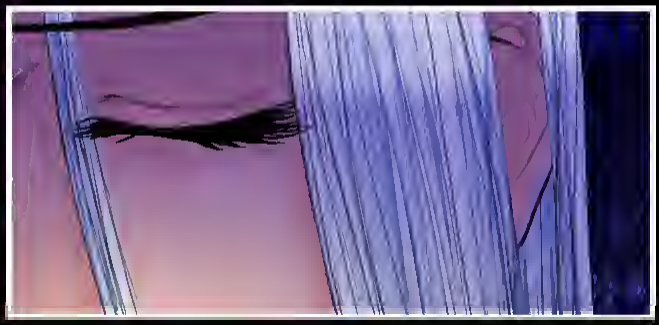
...THEN LEAVE.

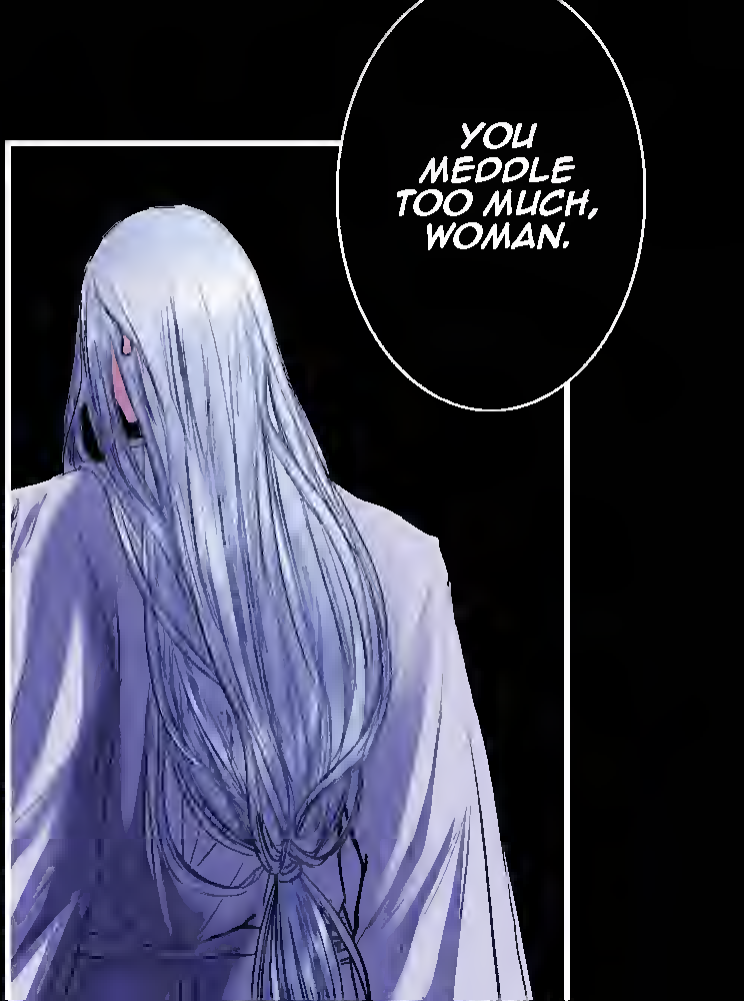
NOW.

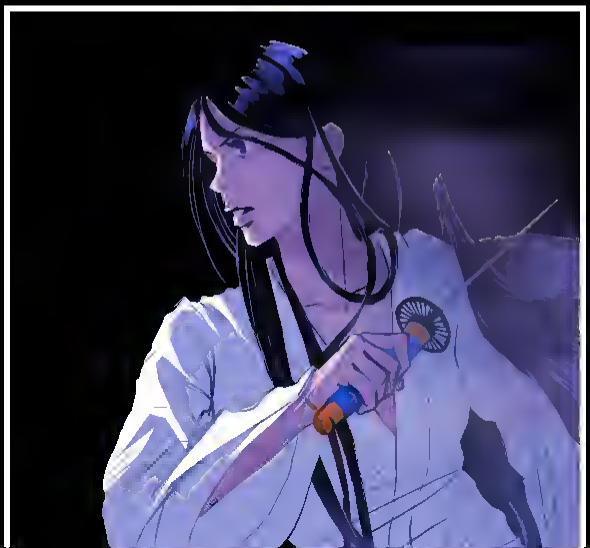
...I CAN'T LET YOU GO ON YOUR WAY WITHOUT KNOWING WHO YOU ARE.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ARE EVEN TRUSTWORTHY.
FOR ALL I KNOW, YOU COULD BE AN ASSASSIN.

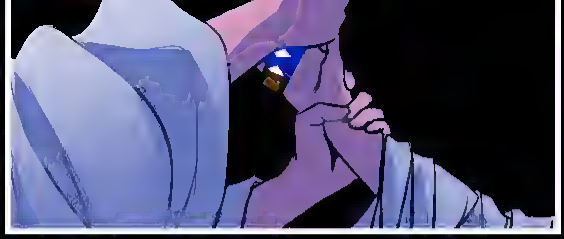
THE PRINCE WAS TARGETED RECENTLY. IT'S TOO SUSPICIOUS.




YOU MEDDLE TOO MUCH, WOMAN.



HE CAUGHT MY HAND!?!!

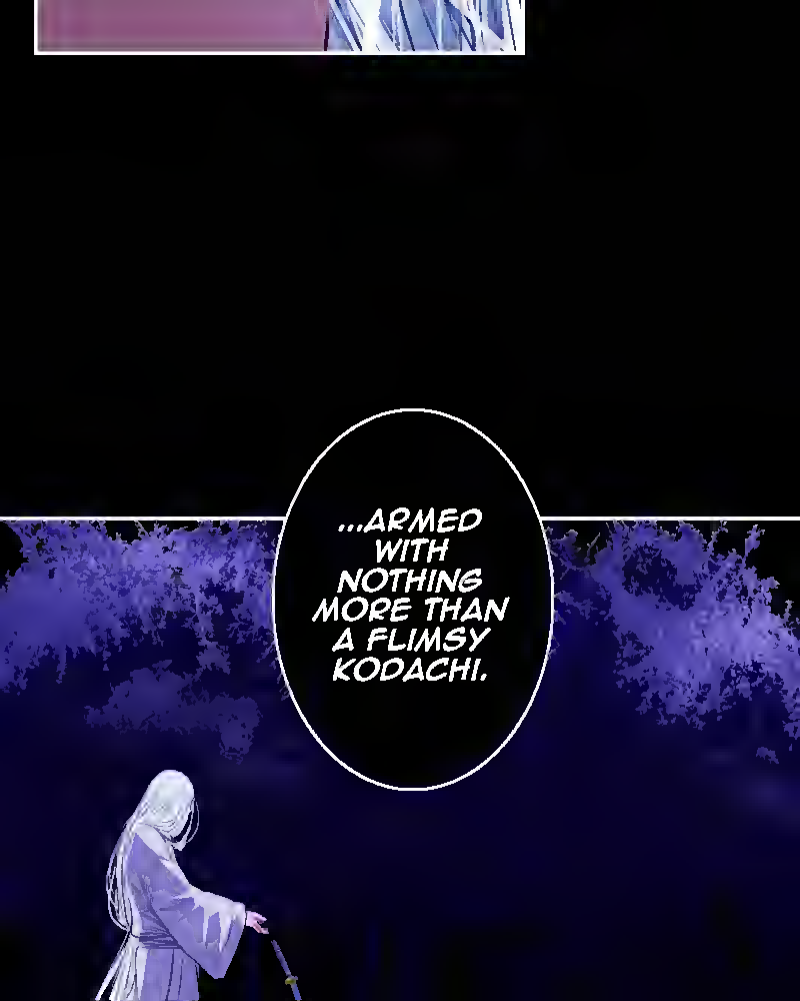


...I DON'T THINK I CAN MOVE...

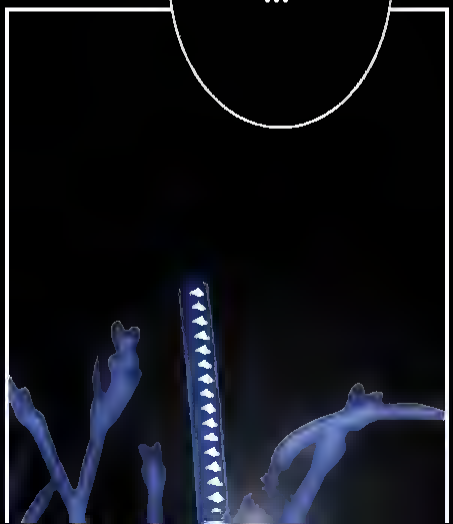
STAY DOWN.
I AM NOT HERE TO KILL ANYONE.
YOU

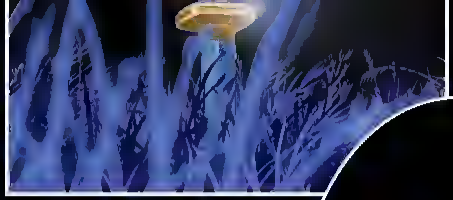
ARE A FOOLISH WOMAN ...

...RUSHING OUT HEADFIRST INTO A FIGHT YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY WIN...

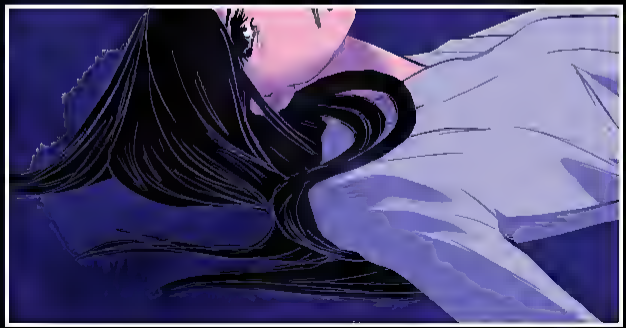

...ARMED WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A FLIMSY KODACHI.

HOWEVER
...

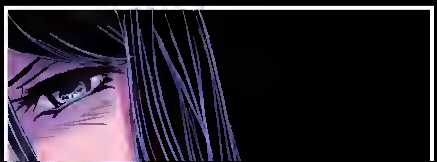


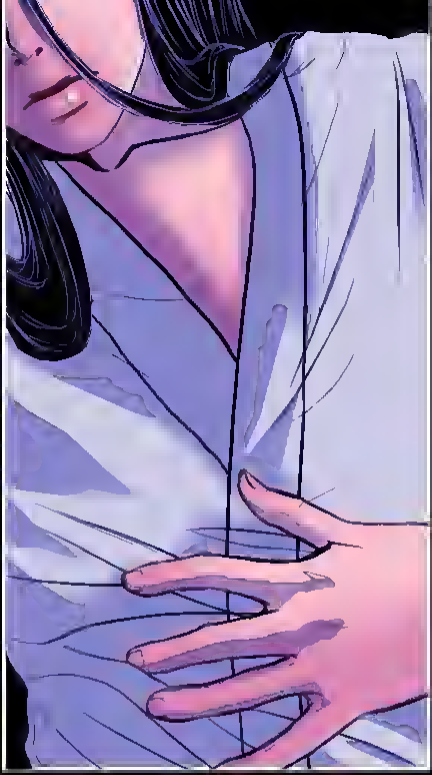


...I DO ADMIRE YOUR FIERCENESS AND LOYALTY TO THE THRONE.



...I TRUST YOU WON'T FOLLOW ME AGAIN.

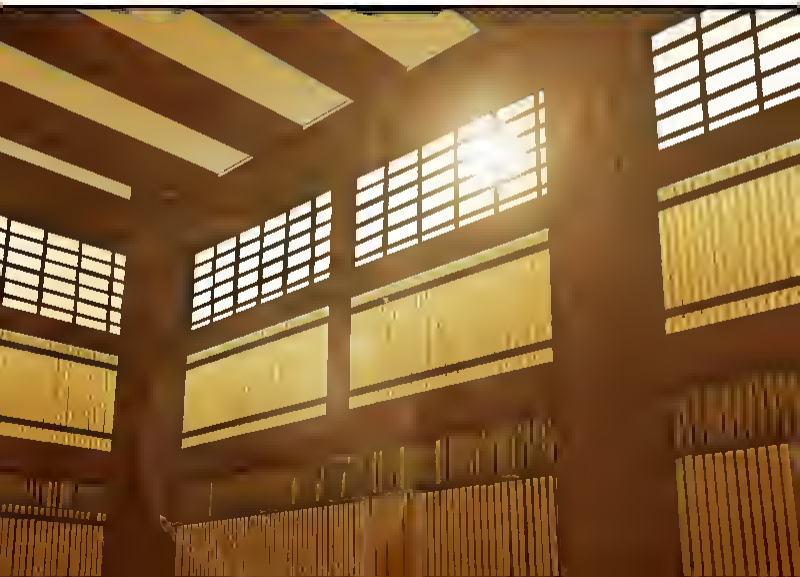




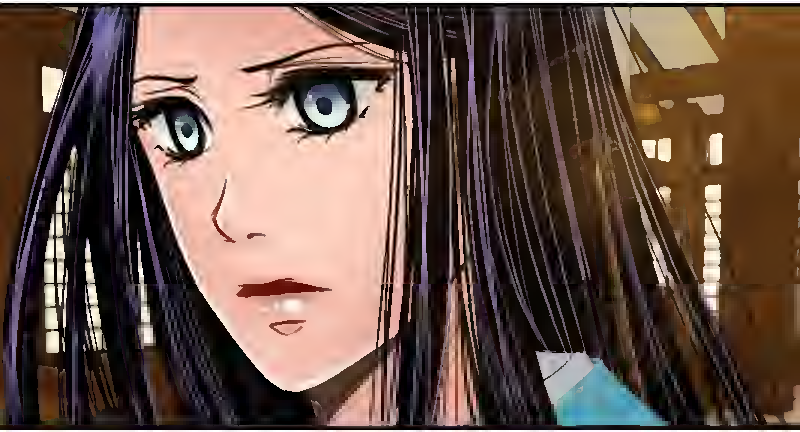
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING AROUND AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT SILVER-HAIRED MAN FROM LAST NIGHT...

I HAVEN'T TOLD MY FAMILY ABOUT IT. THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY THEM.

THEY ARRIVED THIS MORNING AND ARE SETTLING INTO THEIR OWN ROOMS IN THE PALACE GROUNDS.

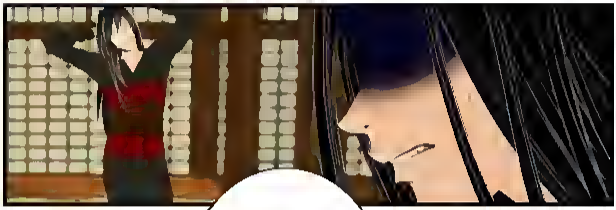


I'VE BEEN HELPING MR. FUJIOKA ALL MORNING WITH TREATING MINOR WOUNDS AMONG THE WARRIORS.



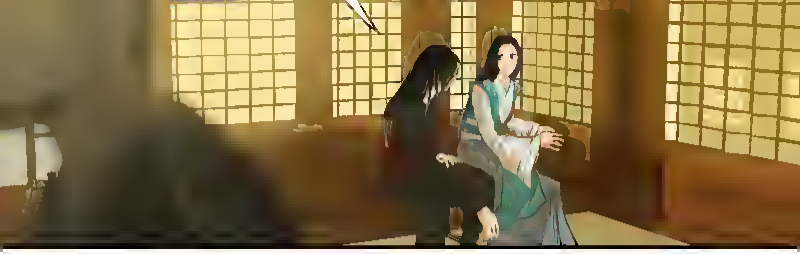
WELL, WELL. GOOD MORNING, MISS KIHARA MEI!
GREAT. THIS

GUY AGAIN.



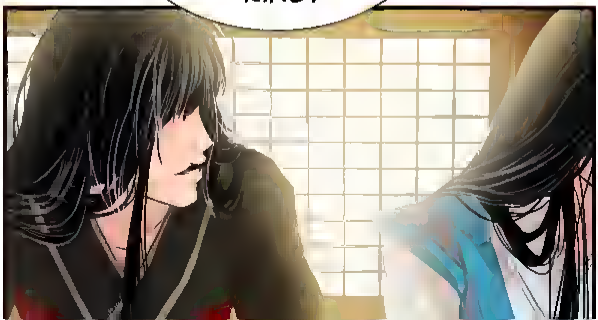
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M HERE TO TRAIN, OF COURSE.



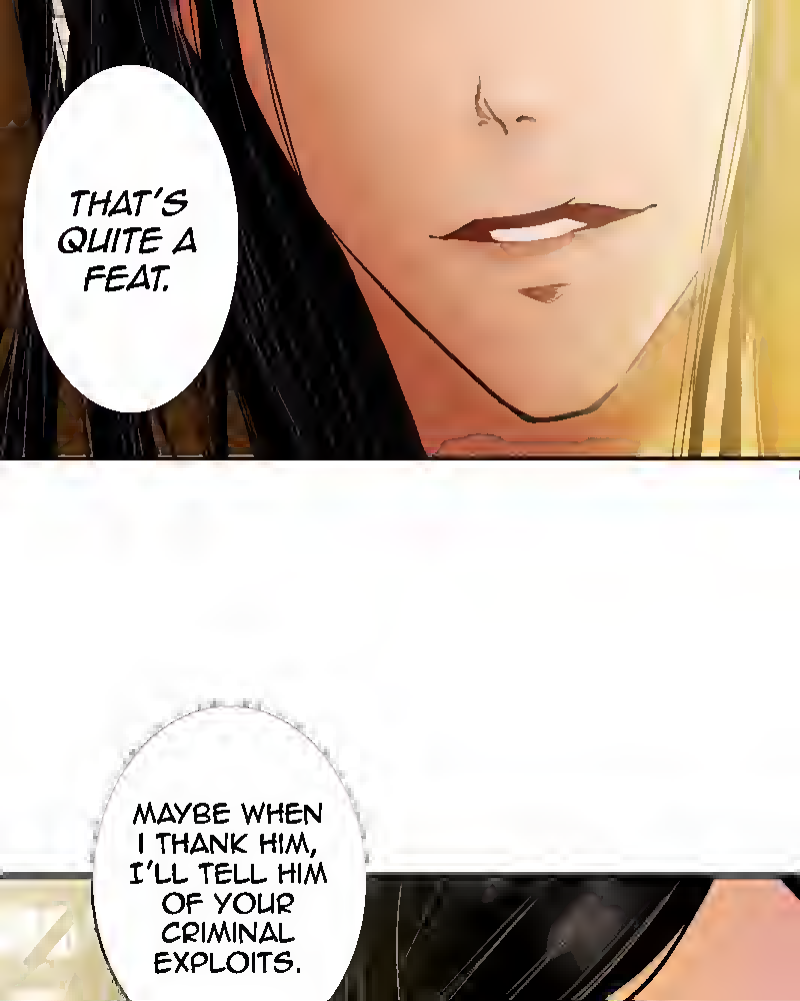
HEY, I HEARD AN INTERESTING STORY THIS MORNING...

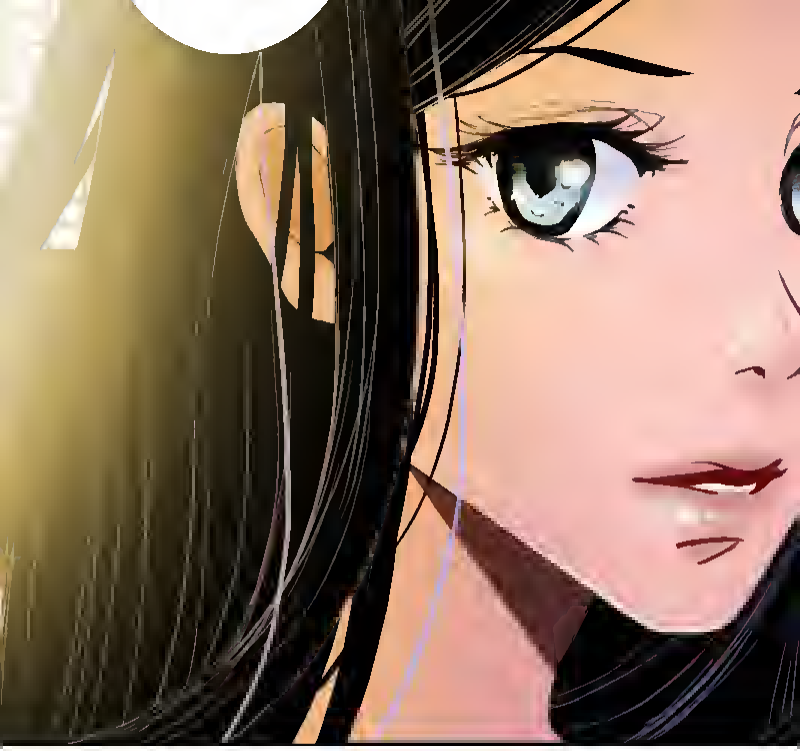
APPARENTLY YOU IMPRESSED THE BLOOD KING.



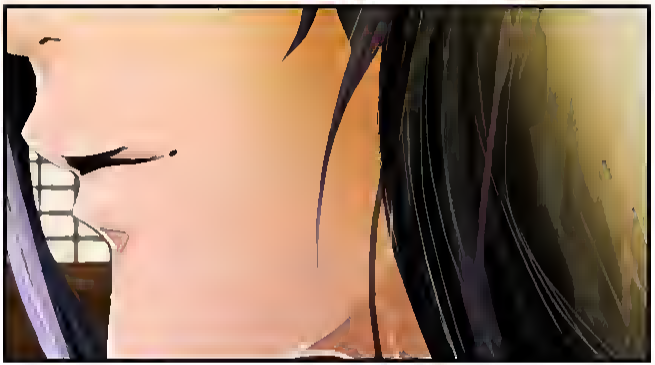
IT SEEMS HE SAW FIT TO MOVE YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY INTO THE CASTLE AND APPOINT YOU A JOB...

YOU MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING RIGHT IN HIS EYES.


THAT'S QUITE A FEAT.
MAYBE WHEN I THANK HIM, I'LL TELL HIM OF YOUR CRIMINAL EXPLOITS.



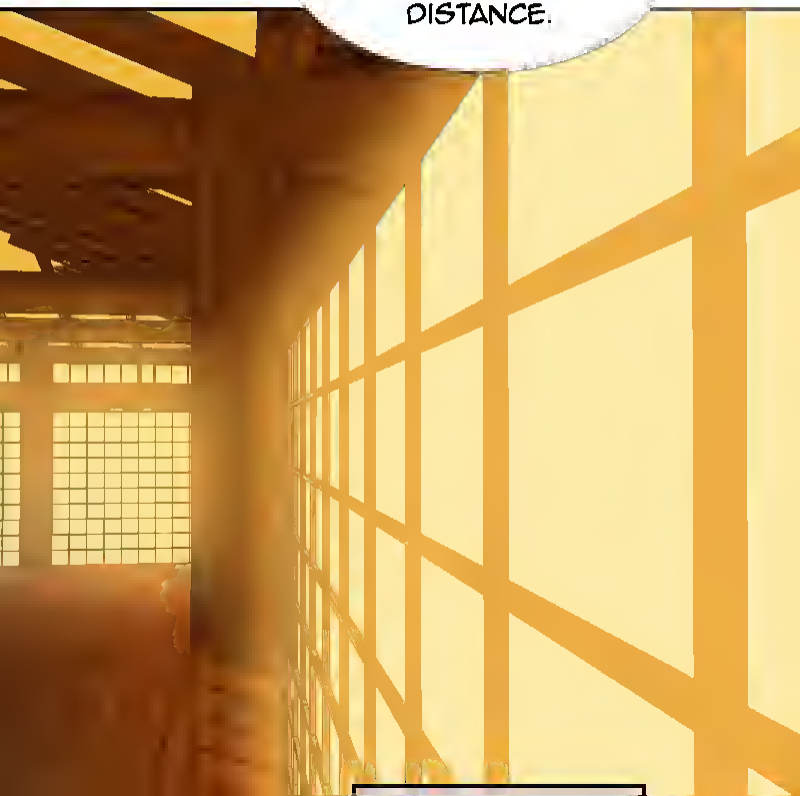
* CHUCKLE *



COMMONERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH THE KING. UNDER ANY

CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU'LL LIKELY NEVER SEE HIS FACE, EVEN FROM A DISTANCE.

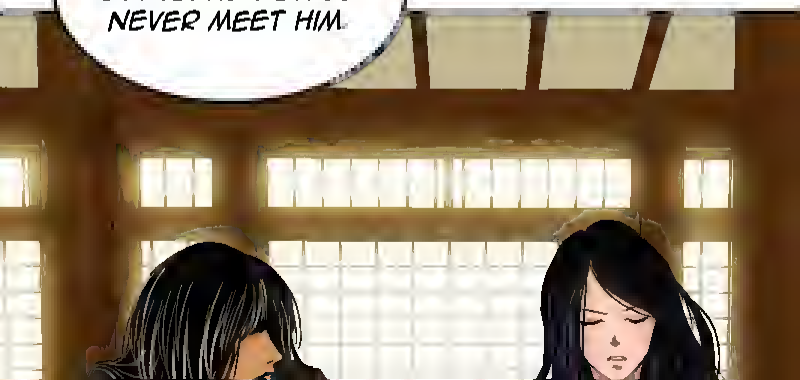


ODD...

HE SPOKE TO ME THE NIGHT I WAS FIRST BROUGHT HERE BY THE GENERAL.

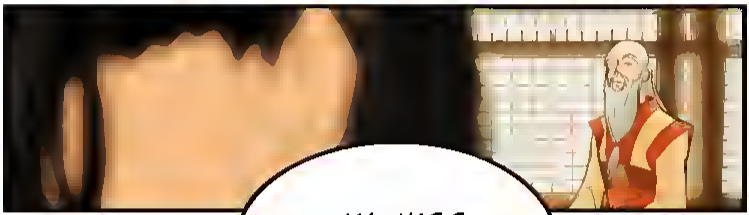
AM I AN EXCEPTION?

REALLY YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL YOU'LL NEVER MEET HIM.



HAHA~

YOU THINK YOU HAVE ME FIGURED OUT, DON'T YOU, DOC?

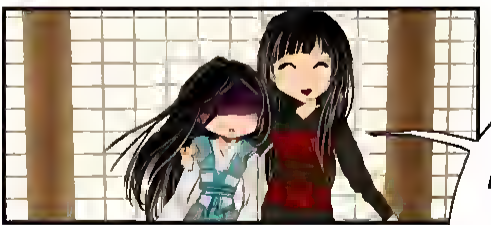


AH, MISS KIHARA...

WOULD YOU PLEASE HEAD TO THE OFFICE AND GRAB EXTRA OINTMENT?

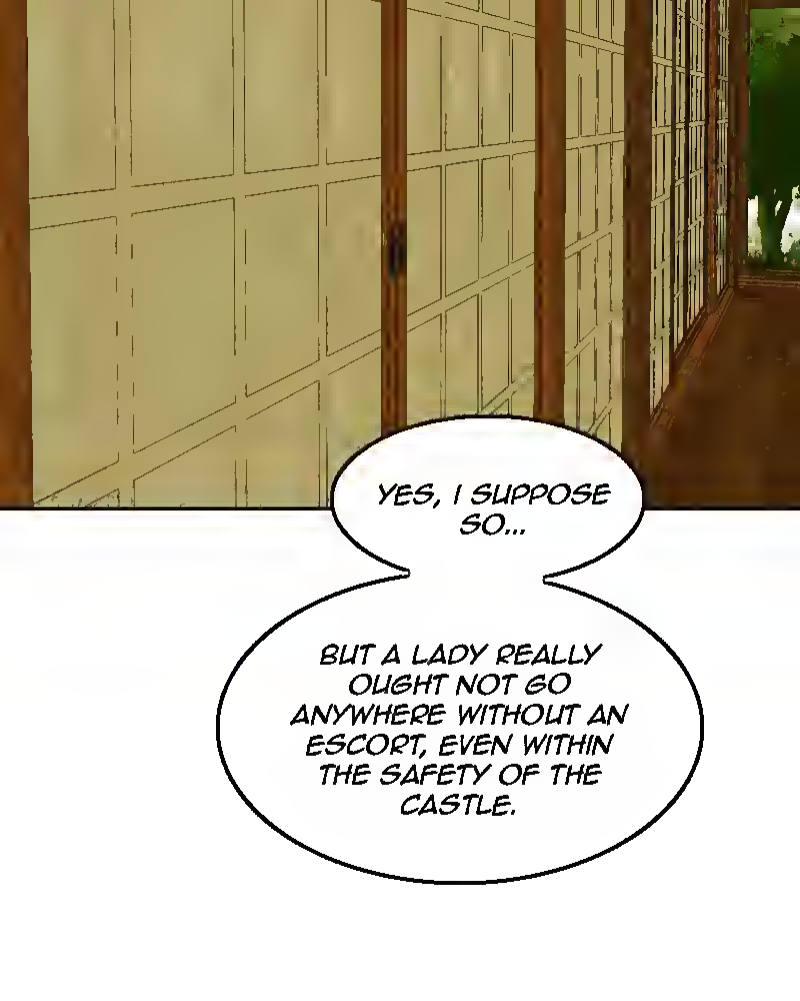
IT SEEMS I'M ALMOST OUT.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, PLEASE ESCORT HER THERE, WON'T YOU?



I WOULD BE HAPPY TO, MR. FUJIOKA.

I COULD'VE EASILY GONE BY MYSELF.
—_—»


YES, I SUPPOSE SO...
BUT A LADY REALLY OUGHT NOT GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT AN ESCORT, EVEN WITHIN THE SAFETY OF THE CASTLE.

IT'S A DANGEROUS WORLD OUT THERE, DEAR. EVEN FOR YOU.

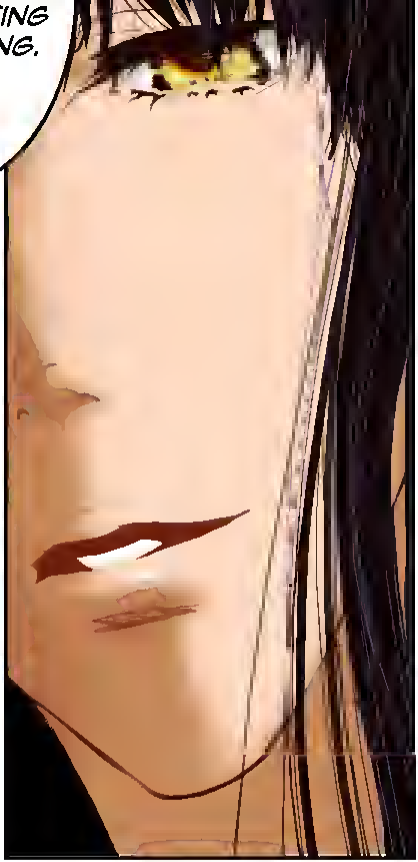
YOU CAN CUT THE

ACT NOW.

I KNOW YOU ARE THE MAN I MET IN THE BROTHEL. AND I KNOW YOU'RE A CRIMINAL, SO STOP PLAYING GAMES.

OH, DON'T SPOIL MY FUN. THINGS WERE

JUST GETTING INTERESTING.

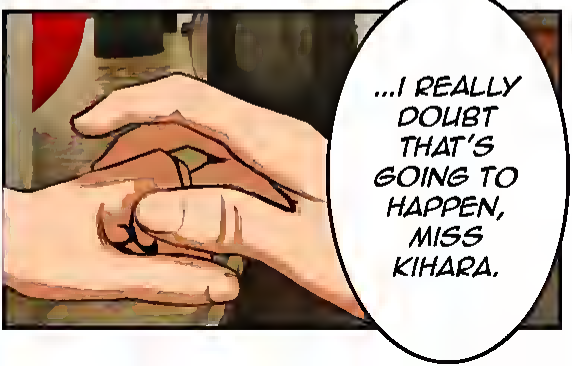


JUST TELL ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

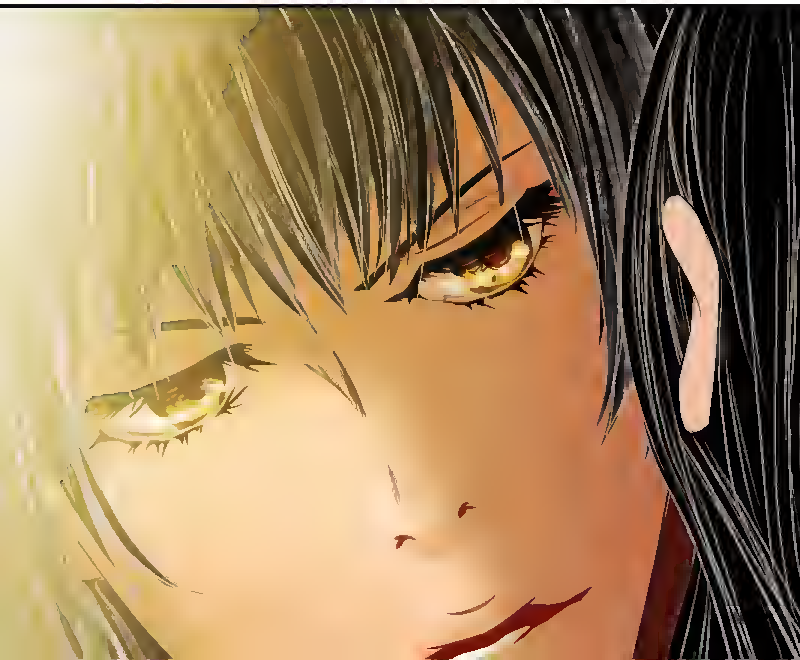
LIEUTENANT GENERAL RYUSAKI HAYATE, 3RD IN COMMAND.

...I'M NOT A CRIMINAL AS YOU SUPPOSE.

OH, SPARE ME. I'LL HAVE YOU DEMOTED.


...I REALLY DOUBT THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, MISS KIHARA.

...AND SINCE WE'RE ALONE NOW...



...WHY DON'T WE PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF?

@LIFELIGHTCOMICS

@LIFELIGHT_COMICS